

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 SY-10

NIC-01 /082 W

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P R 032017 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4757

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USIAC

EO 11652: N/ A

SUBJ: CHILEAN MEDIA SITREP

REF: SANTIAGO 2870

1. SUMMARY: PRIOR NEWSPAPER CENSORSHIP LIFTED JULY 2, BUT DAILIES MUST SUBMIT EDITIONS TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR CLEARANCE BEFORE DISTRIBUTION. NO BLANK SPACES IN JULY 3 NEWSPAPERS. NATIONAL PARTY'S "TRIBUNA" REAPPEARS. ALL OPPOSITION RADIO STATIONS REMAIN ON AIR. DIRECTOR OF OPPOSITION RADIO AGRICULTURA REPORTEDLY ARRESTED. EXTREME LEFTISTS ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER ("TOMAR") NATIONAL TV. CHANNEL 6 REPORTEDLY READY TO GO BACK ON THE AIR. END SUMMARY.

2. CENSORSHIP: MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF SANTIAGO EMERGENCY ZONE JULY 2 INFORMED, IN WRITING, NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE EDITORS THAT PRIOR CENSORSHIP "SUSPENDED" AS OF THAT DATE. HENCEFORTH, EDITORS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO EMERGENCY ZONE HEADQUARTERS TWO COPIES OF EACH EDITION, "ASSEMBLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEWS RESTRICTIONS ESTABLISHED IN PREVIOUS EDICTS." MILITARY AUTHORITIES WOULD THEN "PROCEED TO AUTHORIZE DISTRIBUTION OF THOSE DAILYS WHICH MEET CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED IN THE EDICTS OR DETERMINE THE SUSPENSION OF DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF THOSE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE NOT MET THESE (CONDITIONS)." THIS, IN EFFECT, MEANS SELF-CENSORSHIP, WHICH TENDS TO LEAD TO OVERLY CAUTIOUS APPROACH BY EDITORS AND PROBABLY HELPS EXPLAIN LACK OF BLANK SPACES IN ALL OF TODAY' S NEWSPAPERS.

3. " TRIBUNA" : THE NATIONAL PARTY ' S TABLOID RE- APPEARED TODAY, SOMEWHAT TONED DOWN AND CIRCUMSPECT IN COMPARISON WITH ITS USUAL STRIDENCY. EXPLANATION, WHICH WE CHECKING FURTHER, PROBABLY LIES IN SUSPENSION OF PRIOR CENSORSHIP AND IN FACT THAT BAN ON ITS PUBLICATION HAS BEEN OF INDEFINITE DURATION.

4. RADIO: ALL OPPOSITION RADIO STATIONS REMAIN ON THE AIR, ALTHOUGH SOME (MINERIA, COOPERATIVA, AGRICULTURA, FOR EXAMPLE) COME ON LATE AND CARRY RESTRAINED NEWSCASTS. FLASH ON CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY' S CHANNEL 13 MONDAY NIGHT AND CARRIED ONLY IN TODAY' S MERCURIO- CHAIN " LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS," REPORTS THAT DIRECTOR OF HARD- LINE OPPOSITION RADIO AGRICULTURA WAS " DETAINED" MONDAY NIGHT. WE CHECKING FURTHER.

5. TELEVISION: GOC' S CHANNEL 7 UNDERWENT A TAKEOVER (" TOMA") ATTEMPT MONDAY, AS REPORTED BY TODAY' S INDEPENDENT- CONSERVATIVE " EL MERCURIO" AND INDEPENDENT " LA TERCERA" AND MONDAY NIGHT' S CHANNEL -3. EXTREME LEFTISTS REPORTEDLY IRRITATED OVER CHANNEL 7 GENERAL MANAGER' S DECISION JUNE 29 TO RELEASE MOST EMPLOYEES DURING MILITARY UPRISING AND KEEP ONLY EMERGENCY CREW. CHANNEL 7 SOURCES TOLD " LA TERCERA" THAT INTERLOPERS WERE EXTEME LEFTISTS WHO DID NOT BELONG TO TV STATION WHO MOVED IN DURING THE NIGHT AND WERE OUSTED BY 10 A. M. SAME DAY.

6. CHANNEL 6: RUMORS AND NEWS REPORTS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE THAT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE' S NEW STATION, SMASHED BY GOC JUNE 19 AFTER TWO DAYS ON AIR, WOULD BE BACK IN BUSINESS WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, AS SOON AS " TECHNICAL PROBLEMS" OVERCOME.
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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